

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include 5 new figures. These sheets, which include Figures 13A-13E are flowcharts illustrating various embodiments of methods of manufacture of the present invention.

Attachment: 5 new sheets of Drawings

REMARKS

The electronic software ePAVE Electronic Version 1.2.8; Stylesheet Version 1.0, was used to file the original submission of the instant application. The ePAVE generated electronic format of the application generates two sets of automatic paragraph numbering. The first set, located in the far most left margin, is a rote sequence of the paragraphs starting at the Background of the Invention section being paragraph [0001]. However, each section of the application, i.e., Cross Reference to Related Applications, Background of the Invention, Brief Description of Drawings, Detailed Description contains a subset of automatic paragraph numbering generated by ePAVE that is adjacent the beginning text of each paragraph. In the instant Amendment, paragraph references used refer to both the former and the latter paragraph numbering sets; therefore, a first recitation of the general Speciation numbering (starting at the Background of the Invention, as done so by ePAVE), and a second recitation of the specific section-dependent paragraph numbering.

Specification:

In the Brief Description of Drawings, new paragraph [0030.1], has been added after the Brief Description of Drawing section paragraph number [0030] (Specification paragraph number [0029]), indicating the new Figures 13A-13E.

In the Detailed Description, section paragraph [0060] (specification paragraph number [0059]) has been amended to discuss the new figures.

No new matter has been added.

Drawings:

New Figures 13A-13E have been added, providing flowchart illustrations of various embodiment of methods of manufacture of the instant invention. The new Figures 13A-13E are supported by disclosure, referring to previously described embodiments, such as for example Figures 3C-3F; see paragraphs [0055] to [0060]. ***No new matter has been added.***

Information Disclosure Statement

In the Office Action dated December 15, 2004, the Examiner stated that the "Applicant's application papers filed on 1-29-2004, seems to indicate that applicant filed an electronic IDS." There was no such electronic filed IDS. However, an Information Disclosure Statement is filed with the instant Response.

Claim Duplication

In the Office Action dated December 15, 2004, the Examiner made reference to claims 1 and 2 on the Office Action Summary and in the Claim rejections in the Detailed Action. Claim 1 was inadvertently duplicated by the submission software ePAVE. This is evident by the exact reproduction of the claim wherein the alleged claim 2 is no different from claim 1. Nonetheless, claim 2 is officially cancelled herein. However, the Remarks pertaining to the claim rejections will be directed toward claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102:

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Feingold USPN 4,233,987 (hereinafter referred to as Feingold). In view of the above mentioning of the inadvertent reproduction of claim 1, the following Remarks are with respect to claim 1, versus claims 1 and 2.

Feingold teaches of a curvilinear electrocardiograph electrode strip. In the Office Action, the Examiner referred to Figure 4, of Feingold, for the 102 rejection stating that the top two electrodes were considered “to be one support member paddle, and the bottom two to be a second support member paddle.” With this construction, the Examiner further stated that, “Each of the support member paddles has two contacts 22 and at least one lead (23) carried by the support member and connected to at least one of the contact members. The two paddles are coupled by a perforated coupling member.”

The Examiner's reconstruction is structurally different from claim 1 as amended. In claim 1 as amended, the articulated electrode assembly is comprised of paddles each being comprised of a support member, electrical contacts carried by said support member, lead wires coupled to particular contacts and carried by the support member; and coupling the paddles to one another are coupling members. The coupling members are structures spanning between the paddles and thus coupling them to one another. This distinguishing feature is evident by the limitation directed toward the coupling member of claim 1. The instant amendment merely provides language that further clarifies this structure. The language for this limitation in claim one now includes:

said at least one coupling member spanning between said paddles.

As can be seen in various embodiments of coupling members, such as depicted in the disclosure of Figures 3A-11B, a physical coupling member bridging adjacent paddles to one another is shown. The Examiner asserted that the paddles of Feingold were coupled by a perforated coupling member but failed to indicate an element number associated with this interpretation. Feingold is silent of a teaching of coupling members spanning between paddles. Instead, Feingold provides a strip of electrocardiograph patches attached to one another in a curvilinear fashion with layered foam material having lines of weakened material, as per the description of Figure 4 at column 2 lines 38-54.

Moreover, the curvilinear electrocardiograph electrode strip is constructed from several layers of material including a foam layer 15, a pressure-sensitive

adhesive film layer 17, a top covering 16 and a protective paper layer 25.

Feingold teaches of the use of this multi-layered electrocardiograph electrode strip for placement on the chest or thorax of a patient at precordial site, as shown in Figure 1, for monitoring heart activity. The adhesive film layer 17 of the strip is configured for application onto the skin of a patient. Moreover, it is taught in column 2 lines 66 to column 3 line 2, that the protective paper layer 25 is removed from the adhesive layer 17 so that conductive jelly can be applied to the electrode so that the strip can then be pressed on the application site of the patient to thereby create an adhesive, electrical connection.

The electrocardiograph strip is adapted, sized, dimensioned and configured for external placement on a patient with conductive coupling via a conductive jelly. The use of multiple materials to construct the multiple layers (of e.g., foam, paper, adhesive) of the electrocardiograph strip that further needs electrical connection through such layers by using conductive jellies to facilitate electrical energy transfer.

Conclusion

Claim 1 remains in this application and has been amended as indicated.


Claim 2 has been cancelled herewith, in as much as it is an exact duplicate of claim 1 produced erroneously by the ePAVE software.

Claims 3 - 27 are new claims that have been added by this amendment.

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Applicant respectfully requests that an appropriate Official Action be
rendered in view of the above.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments